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**Middlesex Hospital to Receive the 2016 John D. Thompson Award for Excellence
in the Delivery of Healthcare Through the Use of Data**

WALLINGFORD – At its 98th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 28, 2016, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) will recognize Middlesex Hospital with the 2016 John D. Thompson Award for Excellence in the Delivery of Healthcare Through the Use of Data for its project, *High Reliability Processes to Improve Care for the Early Identification and Treatment of Sepsis*.

“Middlesex Hospital’s high reliability approach to improving patient safety in the identification and treatment of sepsis continues to save lives,” said Jennifer Jackson, CEO, CHA. “The hospital has established a culture of safety in which innovative projects like this are embraced, and excellence in patient care is achieved. This work exemplifies the purpose of the John D. Thompson Award. We are pleased to honor Middlesex Hospital, and congratulate staff on their vision and commitment to patient safety.”

When a patient develops sepsis, a potentially life-threatening complication from an infection, early detection is the key to preventing it from leading to septic shock or, worse, death. Although Middlesex Hospital’s sepsis mortality rate was already low compared to the statewide mean - 6.4% versus 13.4% - the hospital decided to undertake a sepsis improvement initiative in 2013 as part of its commitment to high reliability science.

A sepsis task force was appointed and charged with implementing evidence-based practice strategies for sepsis improvement. This included revisions of sepsis pathways, physician and nursing education on sepsis, and implementation of an electronic early warning system, called the St. John Sepsis Tool, which alerts hospital staff that a patient is at risk of developing, or has developed, sepsis.

The hospital exceeded its 2014 goal of reducing sepsis-related mortality by 20% and, by using ChimeData, Middlesex Hospital is now able to benchmark its sepsis and other hospital mortality rates against other Connecticut hospitals. Finally, the hospital educated its staff on the signs and symptoms of sepsis, the components of the three- and six-hour sepsis bundles, and the new Early Warning System that went live in February 2014.

The results of the hospital's sepsis improvement initiative have been impressive. There has been an increase in the total volume of patients with a sepsis diagnosis, which means more cases are now being identified at earlier stages. Mortality attributed to sepsis was reduced by 21.33% and an estimated 24 lives were saved in 2014 and 2015. The hospital also experienced a 100% reduction in reported SSEs for sepsis and the sepsis pathway changes. Earlier recognition has resulted in an 11.11% reduction in length of stay.

The success of Middlesex Hospital's sepsis improvement initiative paves the way for the next generation of quality improvements by combining the current scientific methods and reference databases with the power of high reliability science.

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The Connecticut Hospital Association has been dedicated to serving Connecticut's hospitals since 1919. Through state and federal advocacy, CHA represents the interests of Connecticut's hospitals on key healthcare issues in the areas of quality and patient safety, access and coverage, workforce, public health, and hospital reimbursement.

